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Death toll rises in Beirut blast

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BEIRUT — With a U.S. warship hovering off-shore in a show of American strength, rescue workers laboriously sifted through the rubble of the U.S. embassy Tuesday in the dim hope of finding more survivors of the blast that killed at least 47 people.

So far, the embassy has confirmed that eight Americans — and one British citizen in the U.S. Army — are dead and seven more are "missing" and presumed to have died when the facade of the building collapsed in Monday's explosion.

Rescue workers, pulling two badly burned bodies from the cafeteria, said "at least five or six dead" lay beneath the heap of concrete and glass.

It was lunchtime and the cafeteria was full when the facade of the embassy was demolished by 300 pounds of explosives on a pickup truck. Witnesses said a man in a black leather jacket was driving it. A pair of charred axles marked the blast point.

Construction cranes and mobile platforms hoisted rescue workers with acetylene torches into the rubble. One body was extracted between two collapsed upper floors.

Political officer Ryan Crocker said identification of the dead would take weeks. "We're having to do it on clothes, jewelry," he said. "Some of the bodies are just mush."

The Rev. Ed Leis, a U.S. Navy commander in the Chap-

U.S. casualties in bombing

U.S. servicemen and embassy workers dead or presumed dead in Beirut:

■ Robert Clayton Ames, 49, Philadelphia; director, CIA's Near East and South Asia analysis bureau.

■ Frank John Johnston, 47, New York; first secretary of the embassy's economic and commercial section.

■ Sgt. 1st Class Richard Twine, 36, Bridgenorth, England; a British subject serving as a trainer in the U.S. Army.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Ben H. Maxwell, 26, Appomattox, Va.; trainer.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Mark E. Salazar, 30, San Gabriel, Calif.; trainer, missing.

■ Marine Cpl. Robert V. McMaugh, 21, Manassas, Va.; embassy guard.

■ William R. McIntyre, 52, McLean, Va.; deputy director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) mission.

■ Thomas R. Blacka, 59, Denver, AID employee.

■ Albert N. Votaw, 57, Chester, Pa.; AID employee.

At least seven other Americans are missing and presumed dead.

lain Corps was up all night performing last rites. "We make the sign of the cross on the forehead, and if there's no forehead, then on the next best place," he said.

Bulldozers released pockets of gas kept in all U.S. embassies for riot control.

Marine spokesmen say it will take weeks to clear the wreckage and find all the bodies. The Marine peacekeeping force stationed at the international airport has doubled patrols and posted some 200 troops around the embassy.

Marine morale remains high. Sgt. Charles King of Salisbury, Md., said: "We are ready to stay as long as it takes to get peace here in Lebanon."

Col. James Mead, the Ma-

rine commander, pointed proudly to an American flag planted at daybreak in a pile of rubble in front of the embassy. "We Americans don't cave in," he said. "We're not going to pack our bags and leave because of something like this."

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, visiting the embassy Tuesday afternoon with Ambassador Robert Dillon, exuded gritty determination. It was "one of those things," he observed, quoting "the boss," President Reagan, as saying: "This will accelerate the peace process."

Habib did not comment on a report by a Lebanese news agency that he and his deputy, Morris Draper, both five miles away at the time of the bombing, were the intended targets.